

## REMARKS

### Status of the Claims

Claims 1-10, 15, 22-31, and 34 are pending in the application. Claim 14 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 11-13, 16-21, and 32-33 remain cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 1, 3-6, 8-10, 22, 24-27, 29-31, and 34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,649,200 to Leblang et al. ("Leblang") in view of U.S. Patent 5,890,166 to Eisenberg et al. ("Eisenberg").

Claims 2, 7, 15, 23, and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Leblang and Eisenberg in view of U.S. Patent 5,862,325 to Reed et al. ("Reed").

### Claim Rejections Pursuant to Provisional Obviousness-Type Double Patenting

Claims 1-10, 15, 22-31, and 34 stand provisionally rejected under the judicially-created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/717,645 in view of Leblang. As stated in the Office Action Response dated June 17, 2004, Applicants respectfully defer their response to the merits of the provisional rejection until the allegedly conflicting claims in one of the subject cases are allowed.

### Claim Rejections Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §101

The Examiner rejects claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. §101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claim 14 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

### Claim Rejections Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1, 3-6, 8-10, 22, 24-27, 29-31, and 34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Leblang in view of Eisenberg.

Claims 2, 7, 15, 23, and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Leblang and Eisenberg in view of Reed.

Applicants respectfully traverse the § 103(a) rejections as in previous remarks with the following additional arguments:

Claim 1 reads:

*A computerized method for adding an association of a project management object to a set of associated project management objects, wherein a link set data structure corresponds*

*to the set of associated project management objects, the method comprising:*

*creating a link content data structure comprising a link set reference field, an object reference field, and a start time field;*

*adding an association of the project management object to said set of associated project management objects by setting said link set reference field in said link content data structure to a value that refers to said link set data structure corresponding to the set of associated project management objects;*

*setting said object reference field in said link content data structure to refer to the project management object; and*

*setting said start time field in the link content data structure to a value representing the current time.*

Examiner's argument regarding Claim 1, as explained on page 12 of January 9, 2006 Office Action is that "an entry in the CR of Fig. 20 reads on the link set reference field (LSRF)." Reading Leblang, Figure 20 does not depict a configuration record but rather a derived object 500, which includes a pointer 514 to a configuration record (Leblang, Column 30, lines 1-5 and 20-28.

The Examiner discusses whether the "link set data structure" (LSDS) is distinguishable from an "object reference field" (ORF) in the claims. The Examiner finds that the claim says that an LSDS is for "pointing/corresponding or referring to the set of associated project management objects." According to the claim, an LSDS *corresponds to the set of associated project management objects*. No "pointing" or "referring" is claimed. As the Examiner notes, the correspondence is made because link content data structures (LCDS) are created for each project management object (PMO) which contain a reference to the LSDS and a reference to the PMO.

The Examiner also finds that the "ORF in the link content data structure (LCDS) is set to refer to a LSDS corresponding to the above set of managed objects." However this is not true. The claim recites "*setting said object reference field in said link content data structure to refer to the project management object*". Thus, the ORF is set to refer to a single PMO, not to a set of PMOs.

The Examiner finds it "plausible to interpret" that an LSDS points to a set of PMO, however, this is nowhere in the claims. The association, according to the claim, is not made

via the LSDS pointing to a variety of PMOs or LCDSs, but rather by a field in the LCDS pointing to the LSDS. (*“adding an association of the project management object to said set of associated project management objects by setting said link set reference field in said link content data structure to a value that refers to said link set data structure corresponding to the set of associated project management objects”*).

Applicants respectfully disagree that “there is no significant difference between what a link set data structure does (corresponding to a set of PMO) and what an object reference field does (set to refer to a PMO). A LSDS is linked to (*“setting said link set reference field in said link content data structure to a value that refers to said link set data structure”*). A ORF links to something else (*“setting said object reference field in said link content data structure to refer to the project management object”*). This, in and of itself distinguishes the two. The link 530 in Leblang is not analogous to the LSDS.

The Examiner writes that “the claim does not make it clear that by setting a value to a LSRF to refer to an LSDS, such setting would provide a distinct reference than that effected via the setting of a ORF to refer to the PMO”, however, again, Applicants respectfully disagree. The claim is directed to *“adding an association of a project management object to a set of associated project management objects.”* If the LSRF and ORF both pointed to the PMO for which an association is being added, no association will be created via the steps of the claimed invention. And if the LSRF and the ORF both pointed to a LSDS, then there would be no association of a new PMO with the set of already-associated PMOS. The Examiner’s application of Leblang is thus clearly inapposite because the claimed association is not created with the attempted correspondence of Leblang elements to the claim limitations.

Additionally, as previously argued, the link content data structure as described in the claims is incompatible with Leblang’s wildcard configuration. The existence of a link content data structure contrasts with a configuration that is defined in terms of a wildcard. Leblang teaches away from the link content data structure of the invention. While Leblang’s teaching is that, “[t]here is no need to ‘add files to a view’ explicitly,” claim 1 is directed to “[a] computerized method for adding an association of a project management object to a set of associated project management objects.” If the files in the view are analogized to project management objects, the clear teaching of Leblang is away from the claimed method. Thus,

as previously discussed, Leblang teaches away from the link content data structure of the invention.

Claim 22, while not identical in scope or language to claim 1, similarly recites "adding an association of a project management object to a set of associated project management objects;" "setting a link set reference field in said link content data structure to a value that refers to a link set data structure corresponding to the set of associated project management objects;" "setting an object reference field in said link content data structure to refer to the project management object;" and "setting a start time field in the link content data structure to a value representing the current time." Claim 22 is therefore patentable over the cited references for the same reasons as noted above with respect to claim 1.

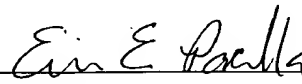
Claims 2-9 and 15 are dependent upon claim 1; and claims 23-31 and 34 are dependent upon claim 22. Accordingly these claims are patentable over the cited references for the same reasons as noted above with respect to claims 1 and 22.

Therefore, for the reasons stated above, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the § 103(a) rejections of claims 1-10, 15, 22-31, and 34 because these claims patentably define over the cited art.

### **Conclusion**

In view of the above remarks, Applicants request reconsideration of the present Application and also submit that the present Application is in a condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully and earnestly solicit an early Notice of Allowance for all pending claims.

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Erin E. Pacella  
Registration No. 56,239

Woodcock Washburn LLP  
One Liberty Place - 46th Floor  
Philadelphia PA 19103  
Telephone: (215) 568-3100  
Facsimile: (215) 568-3439